

Lynne, have three sons and seven grandchildren, all in the Cincinnati area.

A noted individual has said, "Robert is the conscience of the Jewish community in Cincinnati." All of us in Cincinnati thank Robert for his service to our area, and we congratulate him for being honored by NCCJ.

SENIOR CITIZENS NEED OUR HELP

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to urge support for two bills that I have just introduced to provide financial relief to our Nation's senior citizens. Both men and women will receive assistance with this legislation, but because older women are often with less financial resources, they will particularly benefit.

My first bill is H.R. 1922, the Fair Taxes for Seniors Act. This bill would provide a one-time increase in the capital gains tax exemption on the sale of a home for citizens who are 50 or older. Passing this bill would give many seniors the additional money they need for nursing home care, medical costs, and other retirement expenses.

The current capital gains tax exemption works well for younger people who often move from job to job, selling their homes. The current exemption works well for people who live in areas where housing prices are below average. But it is not working for individuals who have lived in one home for 20 to 50 years and have a capital gain that is much larger than the present exemption. In other words, it is not working for seniors who live in areas with higher housing prices.

A senior citizen named Eleanor lives in Glen Ellyn, IL and bought her home with her husband 45 years ago. The value of her home at the time of her husband's death was \$32,000. Eleanor is now 78 years old and needs to move into a nursing care facility. Her house is worth \$579,000, and the combined Federal and State taxes after the current capital gains exemption are \$68,000. Her only income is from Social Security and a small pension, and she needs the money from the sale of her house in order to move into the nursing home. Eleanor would like to stay in the Chicago area because her friends are there, but the price of nursing care is high there as well. Should a 78-year-old woman have to move away from the city where she has lived all her life because, as a widow, she is considered single and has to pay higher taxes? The tax of \$68,000 is money she should be able to use for medicine, living expenses, and her nursing home.

Marilyn is a single, professional woman who lives in Mission Hills, CA—near my Congressional District. She purchased her home over 30 years ago for \$65,000. She chose to become involved in her community and has stayed in the same house throughout her lifetime. Marilyn is now 60 years old and would like to sell her home and move to a smaller condo in the same area. The selling price of her home is now \$895,000, and her combined Federal and State taxes are \$169,940 after the current exemption. Should singles who remain in one house for many years be taxed

for their stability and their long-term commitment to their community—and essentially for being single? A one-time exemption on capital gains would allow Marilyn to downsize her life for her retirement years in a way that is financially sensible.

Sally, a divorced, single mother in Seattle, WA is 57 years old. She chose to stay in one home for 37 years so her children could stay in the same school system, and so she could live near her work and her church. One of her adult children has developed severe health problems and has had to pay medical bills not covered by insurance. Sally needs to help with these medical expenses and has decided to sell her home to pay some of the doctor's bills. Her home that she purchased for \$55,000 is now worth \$629,000, and the combined Federal and State taxes are \$64,000. This tax money is money that Sally should be able to use to pay off medical bills as well as to get ready for her own retirement.

My bill would provide a one-time increase of \$500,000 for a single person and \$1 million for a couple in the amount excludable from the sale of a principal residence for taxpayers who have reached the age of 50. Let us help our citizens over age 50 who have lived in one home for many years. Let them keep the proceeds from the sale of their homes for retirement and health care costs. An added benefit is that family members and perhaps the government will be relieved of the burden of caring for these individuals as they grow older.

My second bill is H.R. 1923, the Social Security Survivors Fairness Act, legislation to provide Social Security widows' benefits for women under the age of 60. Maria is a 58-year-old widow who lives in San Ysidro, CA in my Congressional District. Throughout her lifetime, she worked in the home, raising her children and supporting her husband. Now her husband, who received Social Security benefits, has passed away. There currently is a provision for Maria to receive Social Security widows' benefits, but to qualify she must be 60 years old.

Social Security is telling Maria that she must find a way to support herself for 2 years before they are going to help with widows' benefits. It will be very difficult for her to find a job at her age, when she has never worked outside of her home. Women in their late 50s who are dependent on their husband's Social Security are left with no means of support if their spouse dies.

My bill would amend the Social Security Act to reduce from 60 to 55 the age at which an individual who is otherwise eligible may be paid widows' or widowers' insurance benefits.

I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 1922 and H.R. 1923 to provide financial assistance to our country's most vulnerable citizens.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS AND MARY GREYARD

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Thomas and Mary Greyard who celebrate the 50th anniversary of their wedding on May 25, 2003. Natives of south-

eastern North Carolina, they have spent their 50 years of matrimony in McDonald, in my home county of Robeson.

The French author, Andre Maurois, once said, "A successful marriage is an edifice that must be rebuilt every day." With dedication, determination, and devotion, Thomas and Mary have followed their hearts and built their lives together for half a century.

Thomas and Mary are people of dedication. Dedication not only to each other, but to their two sons, their family, their church, and their community. Having both served as Mayor of the Town of McDonald, as elders and teachers at Iona Presbyterian Church, and as members of various local volunteer organizations, the Greyards have provided a positive example for all to follow.

The devotion that the Greyards have shown is a testament to their love and respect for each other. It is this same devotion to those things we hold most dear in our lives that has served as an example to those around them.

Thomas and Mary, thank you for your dedication and your devotion. We wish you continued success, and may God's strength, peace and joy be with you always!

TRIBUTE TO THE WALL-RIVES AMERICAN LEGION POST 58

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to commend the Wall-Rives American Legion Post 58. They are celebrating 75 years of dedicated service to the honorable veterans residing in Dunnellon, Florida.

On March 3, 1927, the American Legion Post 58 was issued a temporary charter from Department Headquarters in Palatka, Florida. They started out in 1927 with 15 members. Since then they have grown to . . . members through the hard work and dedication of their committed members.

American Legion Post 58 was christened "Wall-Rives Post 58" on May 26, 1947 in honor of Winchester Wall and Hugh Rives, two brave soldiers and residents of the area, who lost their lives during WWII, in the Bataan Death March.

The memory of these dedicated servicemen has been honored throughout the years by the members of the Legion as they continue the legacy of service to their community.

Mr. speaker, I am proud of the service that members of Wall-Rives Post 58 have rendered to our great nation in their 75 year history and I ask you to join with me in thanking them for their service.

RECOGNIZING FORD MOTOR COMPANY ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Ford

Motor Company. Ford has exemplified the social, economic, and cultural heritage America and is deserving of due recognition for their many accomplishments.

On June 16, 1903, 39-year-old Henry Ford and 11 associates started the Ford Motor Company. Armed with little cash, some tools, a few blueprints and abundant faith, these men set out to start one of the most innovative industrial and global institutions.

During the 1903 production year, the first commercial automobile, the Model A, was released by Ford. This 8-horsepower, 2-cylinder vehicle had a 2-speed transmission, 28-inch wheels with wooden spokes and 3-inch tires. It was the first of many alphabetical cars, as Ford went through 19 letters of the alphabet, creating Models A through S, with some of these cars being experimental and not available to the public.

October 1, 1908 was a historic day as Ford introduced the "Universal Car", the Model T. The Model T proved to be a versatile car that could be reconfigured by buyers to move cattle, haul freight, herd horses and even mow lawns. In its first year of production on the Model T, Ford set an industry record, producing 10,660 of the cars.

In the early days, all automobile makers built one car at a time. Ford revolutionized this process with the idea of moving the work to the worker. This became a reality when parts, components, and 140 assemblers stationed at different intervals inaugurated the first moving assembly line in 1913. A new era of industrial progress and growth began for the company.

The Ford plant in Claycomo, Missouri is a remarkable example of the many achievements of the company. Ford's employees, retirees, suppliers, dealers, and its many customers have truly been an asset to the 6th district.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the Ford Motor Company on their 100th anniversary and for their many contributions to the 6th district, the State of Missouri, the United States and the world.

THOMAS G. CODY HONORED BY
THE GREATER CINCINNATI
CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL
CONFERENCE FOR COMMUNITY
AND JUSTICE

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dear friend and constituent, Thomas G. Cody, who will be honored for his extraordinary community service on May 22, 2003, by the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) at NCCJ's 75th Anniversary Awards Dinner. NCCJ, founded in 1927 as the National Conference of Christians and Jews, is a human relations organization dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry, and racism through understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures.

Tom was selected to receive NCCJ's honor for his 20 years of community service in Cincinnati. He has been described as someone who is enormously dedicated to our community, and who exhibits that in his service. Cur-

rently, Tom is on the board of trustees for the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and is co-chair of Cincinnati CAN (Community Action Now). He has also served on the boards of trustees for Children's Hospital Medical Center; the Children's Hospital; Xavier University; Life Center; and NCCJ and is a past chair of the Cincinnati United Way and Community Chest and Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees.

Tom has also had a successful business career. He is currently vice chairman of Federated Department Stores, Inc. in Cincinnati. He joined Federated in 1982 from Pan American World Airways, Inc., where he was Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary. A native of New York, Tom received a B.A. degree from Maryknoll College and a J.D. from St. John's University School of Law.

All of us in Greater Cincinnati are indeed fortunate that Tom Cody and his wife, Mary Ellen, settled in our region and chose to focus so much of their time and energy on making our community a better place. We congratulate him on receiving this prestigious honor from NCCJ.

THE GREEN ISLE CHILDREN'S
RANCH

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Green Isle Children's Ranch in my Fifth Congressional District of Florida. At this center, a group of dedicated, hard-working, caring individuals has been working for more than 15 years to better the lives of at-risk children.

The Green Isle Children's Ranch was founded in 1987 by men and women who had worked within the prison system and had seen the great need to prevent children from entering the vicious cycle of detention home, jail, and prison.

The Ranch is an interfaith outreach center that helps at-risk children and troubled families. It houses, counsels, educates and spiritually nurtures troubled and at-risk children from ages 6-15. Most are emotionally handicapped; some suffer from such conditions as attention deficit disorder, and fetal alcohol syndrome. Most have been verbally abused and some physically or sexually abused. All have considerable inner emotional turmoil and anger and almost all are the products of broken homes.

The Mission of the Green Isle Children's Ranch is a noble one. It seeks to provide a residential program for at-risk children; to counsel, educate, and spiritually nurture them, and to provide parenting classes and guidance for each child's family. The ranch serves as a resource for troubled families, providing advice, counseling and a sympathetic ear. In addition, the Green Isle Children's Ranch networks with community organizations, such as local churches, Big Brothers, YMCA, other children's facilities, civic clubs, and community organizations, to expand upon the resources available to them as they strive to better the lives of children.

Green Isle uses a caring approach to help at-risk children, which was developed by Dr.

Jack Lynd at the Edgewood Children's Ranch in Orlando. Counselors at the center work with each child's family, without regard to race, creed, national origin, or ability to pay—and they do it all without accepting tax money.

Mr. Speaker I am proud of the work done by the Green Isle Foundation. I'm proud to have such a facility in my district and I'm proud to say that because of this organization, so many children in my Fifth District of Florida have been positively affected. Their work is to be commended and their cause is so very honorable. I salute, the dedication and care with which Florida's at-risk children are being treated and I salute the Green Isle Children's Ranch.

RECOGNIZING THE GARY, IN
NAACP

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize and commend the members of the Gary branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). On Friday, May 9, 2003, the Gary NAACP will hold its 40th Annual Life Membership Banquet at St. Timothy Community Church in Gary, Indiana.

The Gary NAACP was organized in 1915 by a group of residents to monitor and defend the rights of African-Americans in Northwest Indiana. The national organization, of which the Gary branch is a member, focuses on providing better and more positive ways of addressing the important issues facing minorities in social and job-related settings. Like the national organization, the Gary branch of the NAACP serves its community by combating injustice, discrimination, and unfair treatment in our society.

The primary focus of the NAACP continues to be the protection and enhancement of the civil rights of African-Americans and other minorities. Today, that fight for equity and quality extends to many issues including health care for minorities. Thus, the theme for the evening is, Taking the Next Steps to Reduce Health Disparities. Long before it became a broad based public concern, efforts were underway to ensure that economic and social barriers would not lead to increasingly severe health crises in minority communities. The featured speaker, Dr. Willarda Edwards, National Health Director for the NAACP, will speak about how the NAACP has been leading the effort to inform and educate the community about health care costs; quality and access; disease prevention; health care professions and training; and youth and elderly issues.

Further, this year the Gary NAACP will honor two outstanding community leaders for their lifelong efforts to further equality in society as well as one sorority. Mr. John Betjeman, retiring CEO of Methodist Hospitals, will receive the Benjamin Hooks award and Dr. William Mays, CEO of Mays Chemical, will receive the Roy Wilkins award. Additionally, joining more than four hundred outstanding civil, community, and religious leaders of the region, the following distinguished individuals will be inducted as life members of the Gary NAACP in the categories indicated. Persons